

PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 1991

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RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE ART ON EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM Through January 27, 1991

Three special exhibition galleries of The Cleveland Museum of Art are currently devoted to the Museum's permanent collection of Renaissance and Baroque European art, which includes some of the most treasured acquisitions from the Museum's earliest years. These paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts of the 15th to the 18th centuries are usually on view in the galleries flanking the South Lobby. Now closed for renovations, the Renaissance and Baroque galleries will reopen to the public for the celebration of the Museum's 75th anniversary in June, 1991.

Major paintings from Italy, France, Spain, the Low Countries, and England are exhibited in Gallery 101, the principal special exhibition gallery next to the North Lobby. In any other time and place, such an assemblage would qualify as a major special exhibition; the paintings are among the landmarks of the permanent collection that gives the Cleveland Museum its distinguished rank in the museum world. Fra Filippo Lippi's St. Anthony Abbot and St. Michael, Filippino Lippi's Holy Family, Titian's Adoration of the Magi, Andrea del Sarto's unfinished The Sacrifice of Isaac, Tintoretto's Baptism of Christ, El Greco's Christ on the Cross with Landscape, Caravaggio's The Crucifixion of Saint Andrew, Rubens' Diana and Her Nymphs Departing for the Chase, Ribera's St. Jerome, Georges de La Tour's The Repentant St. Peter, Poussin's Holy Family on the Steps, and Jacob van Ruisdael's Landscape with a Dead Tree and A Wooded and Hilly Landscape are a baker's dozen of the fifty-four major paintings on exhibition. They will

remain on view until **January 27, 1991**. At that time Gallery 101 will be readied for the first Northeast Ohio Artists' Invitational.

Decorative arts and small paintings are installed in Gallery 102, the intimate corridor gallery outside the Museum Cafe. Notable among the treasures of the permanent collection exhibited there are superb pieces of German silver, Italian majolica, and French ceramics, along with such choice Italian bronzes as Giovanni Bologna's striding figure of the god Mars and pictures by French, Flemish, Dutch, Italian, and Spanish painters. A larger selection of decorative objects in bronze, marble, terracotta, and wax are exhibited in the Lower Level/Education gallery; they include Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini's Head of Proserpine and Sansovino's Madonna and Child. Both of these exhibitions will remain on view until **March 17, 1991**.

Seventy percent of the Museum's Renaissance and Baroque collection is thus on exhibition even while gallery renovations are underway. When the renovations are complete, the collection will be reinstalled in new ways. In an enterprise unique among museums, the Cleveland Museum has devoted considerable time and energy to interviewing visitors about the Renaissance and Baroque galleries and is taking their responses into account in redesigning the galleries. Combining visitor studies with educational research, a group of the Museum's curators, educators, and designers is working with outside specialists to create galleries which will enhance the visitors' experience and foster the special learning that can take place in an art museum. The new galleries will open on **June 7, 1991**.

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